

PATENTS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application:	10/674,236	Examiner:	Nash, Brian D.
Filed:	September 29, 2003	Art Unit:	3721
Inventor:	Shelton, et al.	Atty Ref.:	END5126USNP-0517368
Title:	SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING MULTISTROKE FIRING WITH OPENING LOCKOUT		

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

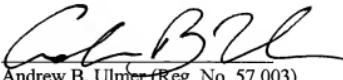
Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on 10/05/2007. In particular, Applicant was required to elect from Group I (claims 1-6 and 10) and Group II (Claims 7-9), which were deemed to relate to distinct inventions.

Applicant elects to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 1-6 and 10), without traverse, and without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims of Group II at a later date.

Respectfully Submitted,


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